

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT | MARCH 4

ST. BASIL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



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Sat 9:00 am - 6:30 pm Sun 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

ADMINISTERED BY THE BASILIAN FATHERS



SIGN-UP SUNDAY

Cardinal Collins and bishops across Ontario are asking for an email address from every Catholic family in their community, with a goal of 100,000 email addresses collected in Ontario by the end of March 2018. This information will be used locally by Cardinal Collins and trusted faith partners to communicate periodically (approximately 6-8 times/year) on issues of particular importance for the Catholic community.

The first campaign of 2018 is the Call for Conscience, inviting our elected Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and those seeking office this June to increase funding/access to palliative care, to protect health care workers wishing to abstain from any involvement in euthanasia/assisted suicide and to protect faith-based facilities from participation in euthanasia/assisted suicide. The work builds on a similar campaign in 2017.

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St. Basil's Parish, Toronto

SIGNS

by Lisa Fernandes

Today's readings, on the third Sunday of Lent, are about signs and symbols of God. The first reading is about a physical symbol of God's word, in this case the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments which were "...written with the finger of God" (**Exodus 31:18**) In the Second Commandment we specifically read about the danger of worshipping physical objects meant to signify God: "*You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above...*" (**Exodus 20.4**). This is not a literal prohibition against carving physical images; it is about placing our faith in anything that takes the place of us depending on God.

The responsorial Psalm 19 tells us that the precepts law and fear of the Lord are more to be desired than gold: "*More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;...*" (**Psalm 19.10**) The importance of a sign or symbol of God is what it means, not what it's made of.

We encounter in our lives not only religious symbols but also secular ones. The Olympics this year partially took place during Lent. The ultimate quest in the Olympics is for the gold medal, a sign that an athlete is the best in the world and some athletes worship the gold medal almost just like worshipping an idol. Some are happy just to be there and participate. We need to take caution in not relying on the wrong kinds of idols to fulfill us (want to put down your phone?)

The second reading continues the theme of the first and reinforces the importance of the cross as a sign and symbol of Christianity. In first Corinthians we read that the Gentiles may see our signs as foolishness however: "*The message about the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*" (**1 Corinthians 1.18**) When we were marked on Ash Wednesday with the sign of the cross on our foreheads, that was a visible symbol of the Cross that also expressed that we are *mortal and fallible*: "*...For dust you are and to dust you shall return.*" (**Genesis 3:19**)

Finally in the Gospel we read the important story about Jesus driving out the moneylenders who were more concerned with the signs of material wealth than this being a temple of God. We see a very angry Christ telling us how important this is. The Jews demanded a sign that he had the authority to cleanse the temple: "*...What sign can you show us for doing this?*" and he anticipates his death and resurrection. (**John 2.18**)

The most important sign is one you cannot see - your faith.

SUNDAY'S READINGS:

- EXODUS 20.1-17
- PSALM 19
- 1 CORINTHIANS 1.18, 22-25
- JOHN 2.13-25

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us on **Fridays during Lent** for the Stations of the Cross. Each week we will join in prayer beginning with Vespers at 5:10PM followed by the Stations of the Cross. Each week during Lent, we will use a different variation of the Stations of the Cross.

THE LITURGY CORNER

RCIA: THE SCRUTINIES

This weekend, The Elect in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Program begin the final steps towards the Easter Vigil.

A scrutiny is a rite of self-searching and repentance meant to heal all that is prone to sin in the hearts of the Elect so that as a community we can bring out and strengthen their desire for Christ.

Beginning on the Third week of Lent, we celebrate three Scrutinies—each one illuminating an aspect of Christ that will further lead the Elect (and all of us) into the mysteries of Christ and love for Him. The Mass which contains the scrutiny, follows the readings for liturgical year A. Today of course, we come to know Jesus as 'Living Water.'

NEXT WEEKEND: BUNDLE UP SUNDAY

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at St. Basil's will collect gently used items for families in need, on the weekend of **March 10-11**. We accept clothes, footwear, blankets, sheets, towels and drapery, as well as new or nearly new toys, and small household goods. We don't collect appliances, baby or other furniture, dishes, books or video/audio cassettes. We donate the goods to families in need, exchange them for vouchers to help the needy, or sell them to support our charitable works.

Volunteers will be present outside the Church before and after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Please tie up your donation bags to make handling easier, and to prevent spoilage.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT.

LENTEN JOURNEY

Using the Lenten "Little Black Books", you were invited to undertake a spiritual journey together over the Lenten season.

The first gathering for the group is **Monday, March 5, at 7PM in Macrina Hall**. Please enter through the Odette Hall entrance, using the elevator to get to the basement. There will be a brief video lecture with time for discussion to follow.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Michael at (416) 926-1300 x.3210 or michael.pirri@utoronto.ca

2018 SHARELIFE CAMPAIGN

Over the coming months, there will be 3 special "ShareLife Sundays". The Parish Campaign for 2018 is "Living the Gospel".

- Sunday March 18, 2018
- Sunday April 22, 2018
- Sunday May 27, 2018

For more information about ShareLife, please visit www.sharelife.org or see their blog at www.workingwonders.ca

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, February 25, 2018 \$ 6,284.05



MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH 4TH — 10TH

SUNDAY

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

9:00am Anthony, Aniela, and Jan Hajdasch (+)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Stefan and Anna Papez (+,+)
4:30pm Wladyslaw Zon and Maria Gorlicki (+,+)

MONDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Pat and Marjorie Flood (+,+)

TUESDAY

7:30am Muriel and Leyland Deane (+,+)
12:10pm Susan Lockwood (+)

WEDNESDAY

7:30am The Thalheimer Family
12:10pm Teresa Fung and Family (liv.)

THURSDAY

7:30am Alison Bryce (+)
12:10pm Rami Gadibava (+), Joaquim Russo (+),
Elena Salvador (+), Veronica Zubek (+)

FRIDAY

7:30am
12:10pm Lina Ciavarella (+)

SATURDAY

5:00pm Juliet Minalabag Abueg (+) and Family

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Mary O'Brien, Claire Fidler, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Joe Torres, Rita Moran, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Lucy Rietveld Bowers, Donna Wood, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Roberto Martello, Paul and Filomena Larocca, Joseph Troncone, Helen Agard, Sally Roche, Rebecca Beaton, Paul O'Brien, Carry Eillen, Romulus DeMello, Neil McCormack, Barbara MacMahon-Firestone, and Alexander Wu.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED.

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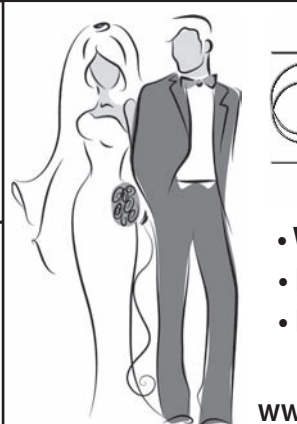
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